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Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is it a fact that the magistrate has since been transferred to another place ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Notice."

Alleged irregularities in the conduct of a raffle for a motor-car in North Arcot district.

*861 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that a raffle for a motor-car was conducted by one Dinadayalu Mudaliyar, Member, District Board, North Arcot, some time back ;

(b) whether the police applied to the Subdivisional Magistrate, Ranipet, to take any steps in the matter ; and, if so, what ; and

(c) what action, if any, he or the District Magistrate took in the matter ?

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is it a fact that the motor car raffled really belongs to the President of the District Board, North Arcot, Mr. K. Krishnaswami Nayudu Garu ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Government have no information."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Will the Government call for the information ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is it a fact that the staff of the District Board of North Arcot sold the tickets and whether other members of the staff were practically compelled to buy the tickets ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Notice, Sir."

Forests

Prohibition of shooting, etc., in the forests of Dharakota estate.

*862 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the forests reserved under sections 22, 26, 32 in the proprietary forests of Dharakota estate, Ganjam district, have been blocked and demarcated and that with proper cairns ;

(b) whether any Government officer was deputed and whether he submitted a report that the above works have been done ;

(c) whether any officer has been appointed as Forest Settlement Officer to enquire into the rights of ryots, and the insufficiency or otherwise of unreserved forests ;

(d) whether any portion of the forest has been set apart for grazing in conformity with the immemorial rights of the ryots to graze cattle ;

(e) the reason why Government have prohibited shooting in the forests ;

(f) the number of forest cases filed by the Raja in each of the years 1925, 1926 and 1927 ; and

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(*g*) whether it is a fact that compounding fee collected by the estate is far in excess of the rules and that no report is sent to the Tahsildar or Magistrate in the form required by the rules?

A—(*a*) Yes. The reserves of (1) Chapidiya, (2) Rongomotiya, (3) Baduva, (4) Bododonda, (5) Bhumidhimiripolli and (6) Gudiya and Suliya are reported to have been demarcated, blocked and fixed with cairns. Some of the cairns are of stone, others are of mud. Wooden posts were erected in some places.

(*b*) No Government officer was appointed but the Raja had it done privately.

(*c*) No forest settlement officer was appointed.

(*d*) Sufficient unreserves are reported to have been set apart for grazing purposes, but some villages have no unreserves at all. A copy of the statement [a] showing the approximate extent of the grazing area in each village furnished by the Raja is enclosed.

(*e*) The Government did not prohibit shooting in the forests. On the other hand Government have refused to sanction the extension of the game rules to the estate forests.

(*f*) No cases were filed in the years 1925 and 1926. In 1927 two cases were filed and they ended in acquittal under sections 245 and 247, Criminal Procedure Code.

(*g*) No compounding fees were collected by the Raja in 1925, 1926 and 1927. No reports were submitted to the Tahsildar-Magistrate in the prescribed form. The system of sending reports has just been commenced in 1928. In one case, the report in the prescribed form was received in the Tahsildar-Magistrate's Office, Aska.

11-45 a.m. Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"With reference to clause (*b*), do Government think that the Raja of Dharakota would have done the work himself impartially? Is it not a fact that the Act requires that Government officials should be deputed to do the work?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The Government believe that he has done it impartially."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"With regard to (*d*), it is said that 'Sufficient unreserves are reported to have been set apart for grazing purposes.' May I know by whom it is reported and whether the Government have verified the accuracy of the statement?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"With reference to the first part of the question, I want notice; with reference to the second part, the answer is 'No.'"

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Will the Government be pleased to depute an officer just to verify the statement?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I shall consider my hon. Friend's suggestion, Sir."

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[a] Printed as Appendix VII on pages 532-533 infra.